

## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Patent No.

6988277

Issue Date:

January 17,2006

Application No. 09778234

Filed:

February 6,2001

Attorney Docket No. PM4

:DECISION GRANTING PETITION

:UNDER 37 CFR 1.378(c)

December 29,2010 This is a decision on the electronic petition, filed ,under 37 CFR 1.378(c) to accept the unintentionally delayed payment of the 3.5 year maintenance fee for the above-identified patent.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

December 29,2010 The maintenance fee is accepted, and the above-identified patent reinstated as of This decision also constitutes notice that the fee has been accepted. An electronic copy of the petition and this decision has been created as an entry in the Image File Wrapper. Nevertheless, petitioner should print and retain an independent copy.

Telephone inquiries related to this electronic decision should be directed to the Electronic Business Center at 1-866-217-9197.